Sermon: **“Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert, where he was tempted by the Devil**” (Luke 4.1-2)

A sign says, alongside a red button, Do Not Press the Red Button: would you be able to resist?

We often think of temptation as like this – a clear choice to do something obviously wrong.

But this is not how we are mostly tempted.

TEXT. Jesus’ temptations were not choices to do wrong things.

Feeding people; power over the world; making a spectacle (NB Transfiguration)

Jesus did feed people; as God Jesus has power in the world; miracles are spectacles.

Temptation is mainly about a choice of ‘good’s. Wilderness – this is when we are faced with a choice of ‘good’s, none of which feel right, or have God’s blessing. How do we then choose? Why are we faced with this? NB TEXT Jesus was led by the Spirit – it is part of God’s will!

Jesus’ choices led to pain & suffering for him. When he did feed, others tried to make him king (John 6.15); Palm Sunday & Gethsemane are both about the right (God’s) use of power; Herod, when Jesus was brought before him, wanted him to do a miracle… (Luke 23.8)

Can we face the truth: sometimes our (rightful) resistance to temptation leads to pain & suffering?

This is our wilderness experience – somewhere to be welcomed not feared. Why?

In the wilderness [1] Israel became strong; [2] Jesus found focus on his ministry; [3] we find strength and true calling. Hard lesson to learn but that is what the wilderness is for.